

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 /199 W

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R 071735Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1716

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC IT BE LU NL FR

SUBJECT: LEONE VISIT TO BENELUX

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: WEEK LON (OCT 23-31) VISIT OF ITALIAN PRES LEONE TO BENELUX COUNTRIES IS SEEN BY PRESS AND FONOFF AS AIMED CHIEFLY AT PROVIDING ASSURANCE TO EC PARTNERS THAT, DESPITE GOI RELUCTANCE TO JOIN MONETARY SNAKE AND OTHER SIGNS OF LUKEWARM ATTACHMENT TO CERTAIN OTHER COMMUNITY ECONOMIC POLICIES, ITALY IS FIRMLY COMMITTED EC PARTNER WHICH DESIRES RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN POLITICAL AREA. FOLLOWING LEONE VISIT TO FRANCE EARLIER IN OCTOBER, BENELUX TRIP IS REGARDED AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NATURAL FOLLOW-ON EFFORT WITH SMALLER, BUT INFLUENTIAL, EC MEMBERS

TO TRY TO DISSIPATE ANY POSSIBLE FEELING THAT ROME MAINTAINS LESS THAN WHOLE-HEARTED COMMITMENT TO GOAL OF EUROPEAN UNITY. END SUMMARY.

2. FONOFF OFFICIAL WITH WHOM WE DISCUSSED SUBJECT REPORTED THAT, DESPITE PRESENCE OF FONMIN MORO THROUGHOUT BENELUX SWING, HE HAD NOT SEEN READOUT OF VISIT AND HAD SERIOUS DOUBTS WHETHER ONE PREPARED. HOWEVER, BASED ON PRE-VISIT PREPARATIONS IN WHICH HE PERSONALLY INVOLVED AND CONVERSATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF ENTOURAGE WHO WENT ALONG, OFFICIAL FELT CONFIDENT THAT REPORTING BY CORRIERE DELLA SERA (NOV 2) AND OTHER PAPERS ACCURATELY REFLECT AIMS AND RESULTS OF VISIT.

3. IN ADDITION TO MAJOR PURPOSE OF ASSURING EC PARTNERS OF GOI COMMITMENT TO EUROPEAN ECONOMIC UNIFICATION PROCESS, LEONE AND MORO ARE REPORTED TO HAVE STRESSED NEED FOR INCREASED POLITICAL COOPERATION AND FOR COMMON POLICY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. POMPIDOU CALL FOR EC SUMMIT MEETINGS AND DISAPPOINTING LACK OF COMMON COMMUNITY POLICY TOWARD MIDEAST CRISIS WERE REGARDED BY ITALIANS AS EVIDENCE OF CORRECTNESS OF THEIR VIEWS IN THIS AREA.

4. ITALIANS REPORTEDLY ALSO RAISED FAMILIAR THEME OF EC REGIONAL POLICY IN HOPE OF OBTAINING FRESH COMMITMENTS FOR COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE TO DEPRESSED MEZZOGIORNO AREA. NETHERLANDS AND LUXEMBOURG ARE REPORTED TO HAVE OFFERED SUPPORT TO GOI PLEA FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC SUPPORT WHILE BELGIUM REMAINED NONCOMMITTAL, TYING REGIONAL POLICY TO ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC/MONETARY UNION. (FRENCH ARE SUPPOSED TO HOLD POSITION THAT THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO REGIONAL POLICY WOULD BE CONDITIONAL UPON COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY IN MONETARY SECTOR - AN ARGUMENT TO WHICH ITALIANS ARE VULNERABLE, GIVEN THEIR NON-ADHERENCE TO EC SNAKE.) VOLPE

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